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SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 2001

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with its weekly news bulletin. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

We regret to announce that Jack Sinden, ZS6QJ, passed away on December 5 in the age of 67 years.

Jack was for many years a radio amateur and served on many committees. He was stationed for a period in the then South West Africa during his service in the army.

At the South African Amateur Amateur Telecommunications Institute (SAATI) Jack was at several times chairman, vice chairman and committee member. He always rendered sensible contributions and executed his tasks eagerly. At appropriate times he could come forward with witticisms and yarns from which you could always deduce that he had a popular personality.

Not only was he a respected radio amateur but also a beloved friend.

We will miss him. His voice is quiet after many years of being a radio amateur.

Our deepest sympathy to his children Avoné, Allene, Jacquelene , John, grandchildren and friends. May you in the time that comes find peace and experience the presence of God intensely.

PAUSE

Here are the headlines of today’s news:

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXELLENCE AWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD PERSONNELL TRAINED AS RADIO AMATEURS

NEW YORK HAM WINS ANTENNA LAWSUIT

ARRL ISSUES QRP DXCC PROGRAM RULES

AFGHANISTAN IS BACK ON THE AMATEUR BANDS

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. The news follows in detail.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are invited for the Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Awards. The closing date for submission of nominations is 31 January 2002 so there is enough time left to think who really deserve these prestigeous awards, but, do not delay, get going now.

These two awards, the junior one for persons under the age of 25 years, are bestowed annually on persons who submit a technical project in any of the following categories:

Design and/or construction of a project such as a pre-amp, SWR bridge, patching unit, automatic ID-er, practical antenna idea, mast, portable gear, power supplies etc. or any software for use in Amateur Radio.

The submission must include the following:

1) The actual item (if size and mass allows it) or photographs (particularly in the case of antennas, mast etc).

2) A complete write-up in article form with illustrations/pictures ready for publication in Radio ZS.

3) All text must be submitted in MSWord or RTF format on a stiffy with two printouts on paper.

Each award will comprise a framed certificate and R350.

The presentations will be made at the dinner coinciding with the SARL AGM. All entries will be displayed (where practical, otherwise photographs).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD PERSONNELL TRAINED AS RADIO AMATEURS

The Department of Communications contacted the SARL a few weeks ago with the request to train seventeen post graduate students as amateur radio operators. Training had to be done in the Western Cape. These students had already qualified in different fields, some technical and some in the Information Technology fields. There were nine ladies and eight men. From next year they will be employed by the Department of Communications, and the idea was to give them some experience in the field of radio communications.

Training was done by Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ, over a period of one month, and took place in a training facility used by the Sunstep program at Stellenbosch University. The Sunstep programme endeavours to bring learners into contact with technology. The training facility is equipped with an amateur radio station for use on HF and two metres.

In addition to lectures, the students could see practical demonstrations of amateur radio and they spent one period building and testing a Morse Code practice oscillator. They also visited ZS1AAZ's radio room at home.

The seventeen students had already proved their ability by passing their previous studies successfully. It was therefore no surprise that they passed the amateur examination too. Fifteen obtained A-symbols and two obtained B-symbols. In the next week they will be handed their examination results and ZR-callsigns.

Many thanks to Henry and the University of Stellenbosch and congratulations to the Department of Communications on this positive step by them, may it bear fruit.

NEW YORK HAM WINS ANTENNA LAWSUIT

In one of the most favorable PRB-1 court rulings in years, a New York amateur has won a three-year battle to erect a tower on his property. The US District Court for the Northern District of New York has ordered the Saratoga Springs Planning Board to grant Randall J. Palmer, N2NVH, a special use permit for a 13,42 m antenna support structure. PRB-1 is the limited federal pre- emption that requires localities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication.

US District Judge Norman A. Mordue found that "the planning board did not attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise" with Palmer The judge found that "the planning board engaged Palmer in a strictly one-sided negotiation consisting of inflexible demands and the construction of hoop after hoop for Palmer to jump through".

The judge asserted that Palmer complied with many of the planning board's numerous requests who even made concessions on his own initiative. Mordue directed the planning board to immediately grant Palmer's application. It's not known if the town will appeal.

It is important that amateurs here take note of this occurance and ensure that they have a say in the drafting of regulations regarding the Environment legislation which must be done by local authorities. Also join the SARL in order to strenghten it to guard for and act in the interests of all the radio amateurs in this country.

ARRL ISSUES QRP DXCC PROGRAM RULES

The ARRL has issued rules http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/qrp-dxcc-rules.html for its new QRP DXCC Award. Applications will be accepted starting January 2, 2002.

The QRP DXCC Award is given for working 100 different "entities" (formerly "countries") on The DXCC List while operating with an output power of 5 W or less. Standard DXCC rules http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/ also apply to this new award. Contacts made since November 15, 1945, are acceptable.

The award is available to Amateur Radio operators worldwide. Applicants must submit an alphanumeric list of 100 contacts– sorted by call sign prefixes.

Application forms and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/index.html.

AFGHANISTAN IS BACK ON THE AMATEUR BANDS

Following the fall of Kabul and other Taleban-held cities in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government, which is the government still recognised by the United Nations, has issued an amateur radio club licence, YA5T. The club callsign is being operated by ON6TT, ON4WW, SM7PKK and S53R, who are in Afghanistan working for the United Nations World Food Programme. The ARRL DXCC Desk reports that it has already received acceptable documentation for YA5T and has approved it for DXCC credit.

CLUB NEWS

OVERBERG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZS1OAR

Every year during August, amateurs in the RSA participate in the International Lighthouse weekend. ZS1OAR have been part of this event since 1998 and operated from the Dangerpoint Lighthouse nearby Gansbaai.

To show our appreciation, ZS1OAR decided to award a Certificate of Appreciation to the Dangerpoint Lighthouse and on 6 December 2001, Johan ZS1WC and Len ZR1VR, Chairman and Vice Chairman, of ZS1OAR, handed this framed certificate to Mr George Peach, the present lighthouse manager.

The certificate was designed, printed and framed by another member of ZS1OAR, old man Willem ZR1GD.

Congratulations and thanks to the OARC for this action towards promotion of the image of amateur radio.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Propagation prognosticator Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports:

This has been a quiet week with no geomagnetic disturbances. Each day's planetary A indices have been in the single digits, indicating stable conditions without the high absorption of HF radio signals associated with solar coronal holes and flares.

Average sunspot numbers were up more than 84 points, and average solar flux rose by nearly 49 points. Solar flux has probably peaked for the short term in the past few days.

For this weekend, Friday through Monday, solar flux is predicted at 225, 225, 220 and 210. Planetary A indices are expected at 8, 8, 15 and 15. The rising A index is possible because of sunspot 9727, currently moving toward the center of the visible solar disk with a complex magnetic field harboring the possibility for solar flares.

Holographic images of the sun's far side show no substantial sunspots. Barring any emerging activity, the next short term minimum in solar flux is expected

from December 16-20. Recently, 6-meter operators have been working a great deal of DX via F2 layer propagation.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE PLEASE SEND ALL NEWS ITEMS ONLY TO gth@freemail.absa.co.za. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in Afrikaans as well as English and sent as early in the week as possible.

Also join us in the following activities: The President's Net on Sundays 12:00 on 7082 kHz; Amateur Radio Mirror International Sundays at 10:00 on 9750 and 21560 kHz which is repeated Mondays at 20:00 on 3215 kHz.

We thank all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organisations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by……from . .. ..

You have been listening to ZS6SRL.

This bulletin now ends and Sarlnews wishes you a pleasant week.

Goodbye to all. /EX